

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 197397  
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 197397

EXDIS FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, US

SUBJECT: PRINCE SAUD'S NEW YORK APARTMENT

REF: JIDDA 5582

1. FOR YOUR INFO, FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES STATUS OF PRINCE SAUD'S PROBLEM IN SEEKING TO BUY A COOPERATIVE APARTMENT AT 640 PARK AVENUE. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF LETTER FROM FRED DUTTON (REPRESENTING SAUD), OFFICE OF NEW YORK STATE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL IN CHARGE OF CIVIL RIGHTS BUREAU MET ON JULY 25 WITH COUNSEL FOR REAL ESTATE FIRM AND COUNSEL FOR THE COOPERATIVE. LATTER STATED THAT SAUD'S NATIONAL ORIGIN WAS NOT THE ISSUE BUT THAT PRESENT RESIDENTS OF BUILDING HAD EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO SALE TO SAUD BECAUSE OF ALLEGED FEARS INCLUDING HIS DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY (E.G., IF THERE WERE FAILURE TO PAY MAINTENANCE CHARGES); POTENTIAL PICKETING FOR POLITICAL REASONS; PRESENCE OF INTRUSIVE BODYGUARDS; EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY TO  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 197397

THE BUILDING; PERSONS OTHER THAN SAUD OR IMMEDIATE MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY MIGHT OCCUPY APARTMENT DURING PERIODS OF HIS EXTENSIVE ABSENCE; POSSIBILITY OF LARGE ENTERTAINMENT. SHAREHOLDERS ACTUALLY REJECTED SAUD'S APPLICATION BY VOTE ON JULY 26. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE NOTIFIED DUTTON'S FIRM EARLY THIS MONTH THAT IT WAS CONTINUING ITS INQUIRY AND THAT, IF IT CONCLUDED THAT

COOPERATIVE'S REJECTION WAS DUE TO DISCRIMINATION BY REASON OF SAUD'S NATIONAL ORIGIN, IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO FILE A COMPLAINT WITH NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID HE WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH SAUD'S REPRESENTATIVE AND ASKED DUTTON'S OFFICE TO ADVISE WHETHER SAUD WERE STILL INTERESTED IN APARTMENT AT 640 PARK AS WELL AS WITH RESPECT TO SAUD'S DESIRE IN THIS MATTER. DUTTON HAS BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY (HE IS NOT EXPECTED BACK IN WASHINGTON UNTIL SEPTEMBER) BUT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY HIS OFFICE OF ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S LETTER. THUS FAR HIS OFFICE HAS NOT RECEIVED RESPONSE FROM DUTTON. FINALLY, ATTORNEY FOR OWNER OF THE APARTMENT IN QUESTION HAS INFORMED DUTTON'S OFFICE THAT THE OWNER IS DISCUSSING SALE OF THE APARTMENT TO ANOTHER POTENTIAL BUYER; WE UNDERSTAND DOWN PAYMENT MADE ON SAUD'S BEHALF HAS BEEN RETURNED.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORT, SAUD TOLD SENATOR JAVITS THAT HE DID NOT WANT "POLITICAL INTERVENTION" IN THIS MATTER. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SAUD IS GENERALLY DISINCLINED TO PURSUE LITIGATION OR CONTINUE TO SEEK IN OTHER WAYS TO PURCHASE THE APARTMENT AT 640 PARK. WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH HIM, GIVEN THE POINT TO WHICH THIS CASE HAS NOW EVOLVED. OF COURSE, THE DECISION IS FOR SAUD TO MAKE.  
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PAGE 03 STATE 197397

3. IT SEEMS TO US THAT IF SAUD IS STILL INTERESTED IN PURCHASING AN APARTMENT, SOME LESSONS ON HOW TO GO ABOUT IT CAN BE DRAWN FROM THE RECENT CASE, E.G., WITH REGARD TO VARIOUS USEFUL CONTACTS IN ADVANCE OF ANY OFFER BEING MADE ON BEHALF OF THE PRINCE.

4. WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR ADVICE ON WHAT WE COULD USE- FULLY DO, IF ANYTHING. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, LIKE TO BE HELPFUL. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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